

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 04977 301323Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8420
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 4977

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, TU
SUBJ: STUDENT UNREST IN ISTANBUL

1. INCIDENTS OF STUDENT UNREST HAVE BEEN REPORTED DAILY IN ISTANBUL
PRESS AS VIOLENCE SPREADS TO INCREASING NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS. THIS WEEK AT LEAST THREE HIGH SCHOOLS IN CITY
HAREPORTEDLY BEEN AFFLICTED BY LEFTIST/RIGHTIST CONFRONTATIONS
BETWEEN STUDENTS. IN LEVENT AREA, CONCERNED PARENTS AND STUDENTS
JOINED FOR PROTEST MARCH AGAINST CONTINUING DISTURBANCES
AT HIGH SCHOOL THERE.

2. AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL, NEWSPAPERS REPORT ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY'S
LITERATURE AND SCIENCE FACULTIES WERE DECLARED CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY
4 BY THEIR RESPECTIVE DEANS AFTER CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS ON
DECEMBER 27. HARRASSED SCIENCE FACULTY DEAN PREVIOUSLY
SUSPENDED CLASSES FOR SAME REASON DECEMBER 15-20. SOME TEN OTHER
FACULTIES AT ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY CONTINUE TO CONDUCT CLASSES
DESPITE TURMOIL (ESPECIALLY IN LARGE LAW FACULTY). ON OTHER HIGHER
EDUCATION CAMPUSES, TEACHERS COLLEGE AND ARCHITECTURE/
ENGINEERING ACADEMY WITNESSED INCIDENTS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE
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THIS WEEK, WITH ONE STUDENT REPORTEDLY SERIOUSLY WOUNDED
AT LATTER.

3. COMMENT: SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MOST RECENT STUDENT
CLASHES INDICATE POLICE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT
WITH AGGRESSIVE TACTICS OF RIGHT WING (ULKU OVAKLARI) STUDENTS

WHO ARE FREQUENTLY BLAMED WITH PROVOKING INVIDENS.
HOWEVER, FIRST SECTION (POLITICAL) CHIEF, WHEN PROBED ON
THIS QUESTION BY CONGEN OFFICER, ASSESSED BLAME ON BOTH SIDES.
NONETHELESS, PRESS REPORTS THAT HEAD OF ULKU OVAKLARI IN
ISTANBUL WILL BE CHARGED BY STATE PROSECUTOR WITH OBSTRUCTING
EDUCATIONAL PROCESS IN INCIDENT EARLIER THIS YEAR AT ISTANBUL
UNIVERSITY. IF CONVICTED HE COULD SERVE 2-5 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT.
OGDEN

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NNN

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